

“Natural Selection” might have seized upon, with reference to some special benefit, but a combination of features which have no apparent dependence upon each other, correlated, but not necessarily connected? Why should “Natural Selection,” altering for its own purpose the palm of the four-fingered mole-cricket into that of the two-fingered species in South America, or developing in South America, from some previous synthetic form of mole-cricket, both the present four-fingered and two-fingered species, and in other parts of the world the four-fingered species only (destroying at the same time the primæval form all over the surface of the globe), at the same time place rows of hairs on the hinder part of the abdomen of the tetradactylate group, and none on that of the didactylate? or make the veins of the tegmina of the ♀ of one group distant and irregular, and those of the other straight and approximate? Why furnish the eighth abdominal segment of the ♂ of one with a projecting tooth, and deprive those of the others of such a prominence? Why give one long and the other short anal cerci, or clothe the hind tarsal nails of one with short hairs and leave the other naked? What have these features to do with the differences of structure we have mentioned in the palm-shaped fore leg, or in the length of the hind leg? These and similar difficulties, arising on every hand, seem to attend every derivative theory of the origin of species.—*Silliman's American Journal*, November 1868.

The Finner Whale of the North Sea.

M. G. O. Sars, the son of the well-known Professor of Christiania, has published a very interesting paper on the individual variations of the Finner Whale, in which he has compared, and formed tables of the measurements of, the eighteen specimens of the Finner Whale of the North Sea described by Sibbald, Müller, and other zoologists. He comes to the conclusion that there are six species, viz. *Balenoptera musculus*, *B. Carolinæ*, *B. gigas*, *B. laticeps*, *B. rostrata*, and *Megaptera longimana*.

The Scrag Whale of Dudley.

Mr. Cope, in the ‘Journal of the Academy of Sciences of Philadelphia,’ 1868, p. 222, describes the bones of an imperfect specimen of the Scrag Whale that was described by Dudley in 1725, but has not been seen by any naturalist since that period. It has a smooth throat, like the Right Whale; it has only four slender fingers at the carpus, and the bladebone of the Finner or *Balenoptera*. He proposes for it a new genus named *Agaphelus*. It is to be regretted that the cranium, cervical and dorsal vertebræ, and first ribs were carried away by the tide before the skeleton was examined. It proves a most interesting genus, intermediate in structure between the Right Whale and the Finner. It does not prove the truth of the theory of Capt. Atwoods, that the Scrag Whales “were probably specimens of the Right Whale that had been left by their mothers